

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2021

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

Thank you for working tirelessly to pass important measures to protect our economy and working families from the COVID-19 outbreak. Various Small Business Administration (SBA) programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, have extended critical relief to many segments of our economy. However, targeted relief for the restaurant and food service industry through the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) has quickly proven insufficient to meet the industry's needs. As we continue towards a full recovery from these challenging times, we urge you to replenish the RRF with enough funding to address the first tranche of applicants.

The food service industry was one of the most severely impacted sectors by the pandemic as many businesses were mandated to shut down for several months to prevent the virus from spreading. According to a New York State Restaurant Association survey from December 2020, 54 percent of restaurants in the state said they would likely not survive past June 2021 without federal relief. We are thankful for the \$28.6 billion RRF program which was created in the American Rescue Plan and signed into law by President Biden in March. However, since the program began accepting applications on May 3, 2021, more than 303,000 restaurants, bars, food trucks, caterers, bakeries, and other eligible entities requested a total of more than \$69 billion to compensate for pandemic-related revenue loss.

Without Congressional action, the nation's food service industry and its hundreds of thousands of workers will remain incapable of fully recovering from the pandemic. We urge you to provide

at least \$40.4 billion in supplemental RRF funding so the first tranche of 303,000 applicants may receive their eligible amount of requested relief. Thank you for your attention and support to this matter.

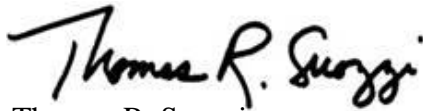
Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress (NY-04)



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress (NY-05)



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress (NY-03)



Andrew Garbarino
Member of Congress (NY-02)